

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No:17 and SEQ ID No:21, wherein said polypeptide interacts with a receptor protein Ret to trigger dimerization of the receptor protein Ret or autophosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of the receptor protein Ret.

2. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least ~~80%~~ 90% identical to ~~the an~~ amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO:17 ~~and SEQ ID NO:21~~.

3. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No: 17 and SEQ ID No: 21.

4. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:21.

5. (New) The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:17.

6. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

7. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

8. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.

9. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17.

10. (New) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.